

Independent School District Board of Trustees President John Bruce in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

John Bruce is the President of the U.I.S.D. Board of Trustees. Bruce decided to make a run for elected office because he did not agree with some of the decisions the Board was making. Armed with that motivation, he ran for and was elected to the board in May 2002. "It's been a challenging and interesting experience," Bruce said. "I've met a lot of fine people."

John Bruce is the Director of the Laredo Job Corps, an education training facility. As Center Director of Laredo Job Corps, Bruce oversees an organization with an annual budget of \$5,500,000. Bruce is also a certified commissioned peace officer and a licensed law enforcement instructor. He is a certified K-9 trainer, a member of the Sheriff's Department SWAT team, and is a former Special Forces Operations officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Bruce ran on the platform of safety in our schools. He initiated the K-9 Patrol Program in UISD to help curtail drug and gang activity at district campuses. Job Corps recently donated two K-9s, which saved the district nearly \$12,000.

Bruce has a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and history from Texas A & I University in Kingsville. He is also a licensed customs broker. Bruce has held numerous positions in several civic and community organizations. He was a member of the 2001 UISD Blue Ribbon Committee, he was vice president of the United High School Booster Club, and Bruce also serves as an advisor to Explorer Post 437. He is a member of the Laredo Masonic Lodge, the Laredo Shriners, and the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize United Independent School District Board President John M. Bruce.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELENA ANUZIS

#### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the State of Michigan and Detroit area community lost a member whose life was characterized by an altruistic commitment to her fellow human beings.

As the youngest daughter of a mill owner and a loving mother, Elena Anuzis was born in Lithuania in 1920, where she grew up in a peaceful country home with three sisters and a brother. But shortly after she married Ceslovas Anuzis, their peaceful life together was ravaged by World War II and the Soviet Union's subsequent occupation of their nation. Fearful for their lives, Elena and Ceslovas fled their country and traveled to the United States, specifically to Michigan, where they settled in Detroit and raised their four children—Ausra, Gailute, Saulius and Andrius.

Elena, along with her husband, is honored by the state of Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations," an honor bestowed to individuals who risked their lives to rescue Jews from the holocaust. Although their means were meager,

they were willing to shelter Hasia Green-Gaslevitz, sent to them by a Catholic Nun from a nearby monastery. There is evidence the couple helped others. They rescued two Jewish girls from the Vilna Ghetto and found shelter for them at the home of a pharmacist in Lyda. They also provided false documentation for other Ghetto escapees.

Mr. Speaker, every day Americans live extraordinary lives, and Elena Anuzis exemplifies their quiet courage and sublime virtue. She triumphed over momentous trials and tribulations and, despite witnessing the horrors of inhumanity, she never ceased espousing, eyeing and elevating the best in everyone; and, in essence and act, generously giving of her heart and soul to her fellow human beings. Let us then all pause to honor Elena; and extend our deepest condolences to her loved ones.

#### CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LCDR ISRAEL G. "TEX" SEEGER, USNR (RET.)

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Israel G. "Tex" Seeger and to honor his great contributions to the United States. Tex turns 90 on March 21, 2005, and he will celebrate this momentous occasion on March 26, 2005 at a special dinner with family and friends.

Tex's courage and brave dedication have made our country and the great State of New York extremely proud. Tex volunteered for the United States Navy on June 30, 1941. After graduating second in a class of 500, from the U.S. Navy V-7 Midshipman Training Program, Tex was awarded an officer's sword for achieving the highest grade in engineering for deck midshipmen. Tex began his service as Deck Division Officer and Boat Group Commander aboard the USS *Edward Rutledge*, an attack transport, during the invasion of North Africa. He then went on to serve as Operations Officer aboard the USS *Harry Lee*, another attack transport, during the invasion of Sicily, Tarawa, Kwajalein, and New Guinea.

In May of 1944, Tex was one of 50 Naval Officers selected to take the Preparatory Staff Course at the Naval War College. Following his graduation, Tex served as Operations Officer and Flag Secretary on the Staff of Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger, where his duties included preparing contingency operation plans for the Fast Battleship Striking Force, the Divisionary Bombardment on the southern coast of Okinawa prior to the invasion at Naha, and the shore bombardments carried out on the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu. Tex also established the Pacific Fleet Headquarters at the Yokosuka Naval Base Administration Building, where an impressive flag raising ceremony for Admiral Nimitz took place on August 30, 1945.

On September 30, 1945, Tex was separated from the Navy and subsequently received the citation and award of the Bronze Star Medal from Admiral Halsey. On January 1, 1949, Tex was promoted to the permanent rank of Lieu-

tenant Commander, and he was retired in that rank in 1954.

Tex continued his commitment to service through his role as Judge Advocate and as a Director of the U.S. Navy League, New York Council. Tex currently resides in Manhasset, New York, and although he claims to be semi-retired, he is still an active member of the New York bar and is engaged in the practice of law in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Israel G. "Tex" Seeger for his years of dedicated service to this country. Tex's integrity, bravery, and stature have certainly made a significant impression on the great many lives he has touched. In recognition of this, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Israel G. "Tex" Seeger as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER GEORGE M. BECKELHYMER

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer, of my Congressional District in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Beckelhymer graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, earning his bachelor's degree in radio, television, and film. After graduation he decided to venture into the business world, and he became part owner of L. Bufalo Pawn Shop.

In May 2002 he was elected to District 4 of the LISD Board of Trustees, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board. His District includes Sanchez/Ochoa Elementary, Alma Pierce Elementary, K. Tarver Elementary, and J.W. Nixon High School. Mr. Beckelhymer believes in working together with all of the appointed Trustees to create a good working environment between faculty, parents, and children.

Mr. Beckelhymer enjoys working for the community, and is an active member of the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee in the City of Laredo. Beckelhymer hopes to ensure that all students receive the best quality education to prepare them for the future, and he is proud that he is able to help the community move in a positive direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to honor Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday March 8, 2005, I was unable to cast my vote